

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 R

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APPROVED BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

NEA/ INS: DTSCHNEIDER

NEA: RPD AVIES

S/ S - MR. BARNES

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R 021602 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060078

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJ: CALL ON DEPUTY SECRETARY BY AMB. KANAKARATNE

1. DURING INITIAL CALL ON MARCH 30, AMB KANAKRATNE SAID HE WAS VERY HAPPY THAT DEPY SECY WAS PLANNING TO VISIT SRI LANKA. HE NOTED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD SAID PROPOSED TIMING WAS GOOD, PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE WAS VERY MUCH LOOKING FORWARD TO VISIT, AND TIME HAD ALREADY BEEN SET ASIDE FOR CALL ON PM. THE DEPY SECY SAID HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO VISITING SRI LANKA AND THAT HOSPITALITY WHICH AS BEING OFFERED BY GSL IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SCHEDULE FOR VISIT WOULD HAVE TO BE CHANGED AND WE WOULD BE IN TOUCH ITH GSL REGARDING THIS.

2. DEPY SECY ALSO SAID HE WAS PLEASED THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES HAVE DEVELOPED SUCH GOOD RELATIONS OVER PAST TWO YEARS. KANAKARATNE REPLIED THAT FEELING WAS SHARED BY GSL. HE SAID MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROVIDED DURING APRIL 1971 FIGHTING AND CORDIALITY WHICH MARKED PRIME MINISTER' S
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VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN OCTOBER 1971 HAD BEEN DEEPLY APPRECIATED AS FINE GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP. HE NOTED THAT ECONOMIC AID PROVIDED BY US IS ALSO GREATLY APPRECIATED AND US HELP IN ENSURING THAT RECENT AID GROUP MEETING ' AS HELD HAD CONTRIBUTED TO BUILDING EVEN BETTER RELATIONSHIPS NOT ONLY BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS BUT ALSO BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES. FAVORABLE US ACTIONS HAD RECEIVED PROMINENT

PUBLICITY IN SRI LANKA WHICH HAS CREATED FAVORABLE CLIMATE FOR PROMOTING FRIENDSHIP. RUSH

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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